

**NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND OCCURRENCE OF SOME STRIPED SKINKS (GENUS *CTENOTUS*) IN QUEENSLAND:** The following provides details on the occurrence and distribution of some species of *Ctenotus* in northern and western Queensland.

*Ctenotus piankai* Storr has been included in the Queensland herpetofauna (e.g. Cogger, 1986) on the basis of a specimen in the South Australian Museum (SAM 5387, Doomadgee Mission) reported in Storr (1970). G.M. Storr (pers. comm.) has informed us that this specimen is referable to *Ctenotus striaticeps* Storr, a species that has since been found throughout the area of north-western Queensland and adjacent parts of the Northern Territory. On this basis, *Ctenotus piankai* should be deleted from lists of the Queensland herpetofauna.

*Ctenotus decaneurus* Storr has been included in the Queensland herpetofauna by Wilson and Knowles (1988), who figure a specimen from 'Muellers Range, Winton District, Queensland' (Photograph 343, p.264). This view of the distribution of *Ctenotus decaneurus* contrasts with that provided by both Cogger (1986) and Rankin (1978) who indicate that this skink is more-or-less restricted to the area between the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia and western Arnhem Land. Wilson and Knowles' identification is correct and a relatively extensive distribution of the species through western Queensland is confirmed by reference to material in the Queensland Museum herpetological collection (QMJ). Three specimens, all clearly referable to *Ctenotus decaneurus*, indicate that this skink occurs through hummock grass habitats on extensive stony substrates in the arid western half of the State. (QMJ30430 'Cloncurry'; QMJ43244 'Mica Creek via Mt Isa'; QMJ43267 '88km south west of Winton', the latter specimen is the one figured by Wilson and Knowles, 1988).

*Ctenotus inornatus* (Gray) has been reported to occur on eastern Cape York Peninsula in the vicinity of Iron Range (Wilson and Knowles, 1988). This population is apparently isolated from its conspecifics in subhumid and semi-arid

northern Australia (between Broome and the southern Gulf of Carpentaria). The occurrence of this skink in what is a humid, wet region appears problematical and requires some explanation. The presence of *Ctenotus inornatus* on eastern Cape York is based on two specimens collected by Donald Thomson from 'Near Lockhart River' and held in the Museum of Victoria (MV DT-D273-4). Both specimens are referable to *Ctenotus inornatus* (Gray). Although Thomson collected extensively in Arnhem Land, NT, and at Aurukun, W Cape York Peninsula (Dixon and Huxley, 1985), there appears to be no reason to doubt the provenance of these two specimens (A.J. Coventry, pers. comm.). However, the locality given is sufficiently vague in that the specimens may have actually been taken some distance from Lockhart River. Further comment on the range of *Ctenotus inornatus* in eastern Cape York must await collection of additional specimens.

#### Literature Cited

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